



Uniform Law Commission
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMISSIONERS ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

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Michigan State Legislature
Senate Judiciary Committee
Farnum Building - Room 110
125 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 43933

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 903: the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act

Chair Jones and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Uniform Law Commission (ULC), I am writing in my capacity as Legislative Counsel in support of Senate Bill 903, sponsored by fellow committee member Senator Schuitmaker. Senate Bill 903 seeks to update the Michigan Arbitration Act by enacting the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act (RUAA). RUAA was completed by the ULC in 2000. So far, it has been adopted in 15 jurisdictions and is currently pending in two additional jurisdictions, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

The RUAA continues the central policy of the existing Michigan Arbitration Act, authorizing agreements to arbitrate disputes before there is an actual dispute. The new act also deals with the procedural side of arbitration that has been greatly augmented to meet modern needs. In addition, the new act attempts to adjust the provisions of the Michigan Arbitration Act to avoid preemption by the Federal Arbitration Act.

The RUAA strives to provide uniformity in law. Additionally, it aligns state law with federal law, which decreases the potential for litigation on preemption grounds. It is an important advancement in the law of arbitration, which every state should adopt. I respectfully ask the members of this committee to vote in favor of Senate Bill 903.

Sincerely,

Nicole Julal

ULC Legislative Counsel